the country. Category-wise details are indicated below:—

	SC	ST	PH	DEF	OPEN
RO	74	45	33	22	244
LPG	80	30	38	20	262

There is no reservation for backward classes, educated unemployed category, Ex-Armed personnel and para military forces. These are included in the Open, Defence and PH category respectively.

(c) and (d) 1519 Retail Outlet dealerships and 623 LPG distributorships have been included in the Marketing Plans 1988—93 and 1992—94 respectively. Selection of dealers/ distributors is currently underway through the Oil Selection Boards.

Permission to Airlines to import aviation turbine fuel

494. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines and some private airlines have approached the Central Government for granting them permission to directly import aviation turbine fuel;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the grant of such permission is likely to have any adverse effect on foreign exchange position; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Indian Airlines and Private Airlines have requested Indian Oil Corporation for assistance in handling their ATF imports against special import licences, available under Government Scheme. Indian Oil Corporation will import ATF against the said licences, on behalf of the Airlines, on commercial terms.

Consortium for crude oil exploration in cauveri basin

495. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consortium of three crude oil exploration companies, led by Vaalco Energy Inc. of USA has recently signed a production sharing contract with Government of India for exploration block under the fourth round located at the Cauveri basin in the East Coast;

(b) if so, what are the names of those companies; and

(c) the terms and conditions under which such a contract has been signed with three crude oil exploration companies by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) A production sharing contract has been signed on